



Luther Phillips was a young carpenter, just married, when on Sept. 18, 1806 he bought 30 acres of land from Elden Wadsworth who described it as "all the land I own to the southeasterly side of the Plymouth Road." Right on that highway, now Tremont St., he built a 2-story house and was well settled by the time the first baby was born in October, 1807.

Although the house follows the plan of rooms most in use then, there are many highly individual touches that show the skill and personal attention Luther put into his house. The first floor he finished in full with wide wainscoting, fine panels and cornices, and nice designs by the fireplaces. The kitchen fireplace is also his own design with 2 narrow cupboards above the mantle in a place where generally was a wide panel. The stamp of the builder shows in many places.

There are some very wide boards, some very good old floors, and throughout the first floor many evidences of fine carpentry. Luther put his best work into his own home, but he seems to have kept well within his means for he finished off only one room on the second floor. Later occupants finished 2 small rear bedrooms but the northwest chamber to this day is just as Luther Phillips left it, with all the old braced frame construction exposed.

Other buildings were added to the property for when Luther sold in 1820, he sold 4 acres off the original 30, "together with my house and workshop and all outbuildings except the barn," which he probably moved off the place, as there have been no other buildings on the remaining acres.

Although Luther Phillips built, the house was long known as the Barstow place, 4 generations of that family living there for 81 years. Henry Barstow, who lived his whole life in this house, was one of Duxbury's active citizens, serving as selectman and school board member for long periods. He had something to do with the draft in Civil War years and later he compiled a list of all who served in that war.

Arthur Eaton bought the house in 1914 and he and his mother lived out long years here. Again the old house had an owner with a great love for his town, to the extent that he made Duxbury beneficiary of his estate. The house Luther Phillips built in 1806 has been home to men who have left their mark on Duxbury.

The house was neglected because of aging owners and also some damage from vandals but restoration is now assured with present owners Eric and Joan Woods.

Dorothy Wentworth, Chief Researcher
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